**MALAWI AFRICA RISING TEAM MEETING**

**18 June 2015, Lilongwe Hotel, Lilongwe**



**Agenda**

1. Our collective input into the July 13-16 ESA review and planning meeting
2. Data Sets for the ILRI/IFPRI repository
3. Graduate students progress
4. PMMT training
5. AOB
6. **Planning Meeting next month (July 13-16)**

* The group discussed approaches to get prepared for the Africa RISING review and planning meeting in Mangochi. The following action points were agreed upon:

1. All partners to prepare a 6 PowerPoint slides on the outputs and submit to the Regis by 8 July

-Include significant outputs from 2014-15 with an appendix of pictures

1. All partners to prepare and submit to Regis a one-paged inputs/suggestions to be included in the proposal (for proposal revision) for the next year. The suggestions should not be completely new work/activities but should concentrate on how to consolidate/improve what is currently taking place.
2. **PMMT (Project Mapping and Monitoring Tool)**

The chair informed the meeting that IFPRI has organized training on PMMT for 17 and 18th July, to be held in Lilongwe, following the review and planning meeting. This will be similar to the one held during 2014, but this refresher is important as most people are not using the tool. The following people will attend this training:

* Hanna Livuza
* Emmanuel Jambo
* Regis Chikowo
* Wezi mhango
* Gift Ndegu
* Bath Chataika
* Aston Mulwafu
* Joyce Njoloma

1. **Data Sets**

All partners reported on the progress on data collection, entry and compilation.

The meeting was also informed about the need for data documentation into ILRI/IFPRI repository ( ILRI’s Datasets Portal CKAN)

* It was emphasized that the data is protected and all partners are required to submit their data sets as they become available
* To date Africa RISING Malawi had 9 data sets, with 6 already uploaded on CKAN
* Incomplete data sets should be availed as soon as adequate data is available. This can be updated as more data becomes available

1. CIAT

- Data compilation

* CIAT representative reported that the partner is still harmonizing their data (in some cases data entry still underway).
* It was also reported that some Lab samples were still under analysis.
* Most of the outstanding data is for maize.
* CIAT anticipates completing all data compilation by July 2015.

- CIAT also informed the meeting about the Participatory Technology Evaluation

* The results show that farmers show understanding of what is happening with the research and are able to make decisions on which technologies they need to adopt.
* The results also showed that farmers are more inclined to adopt/ show high preference for the drought tolerant bean varieties.
* It was also reported that the CIAT has been working with DARS especially on how the preferred varieties could be released to the farmers.

1. ICRAF

* ICRAF reported that data entry for the yield trials (maize+beans ) is almost done.
* The meeting was also informed that ICRAF conducts continuous data collection for milk yields (on daily basis) on the farmers milking and providing supplementary feeding to their cows.
* This is an important indicator of how Africa RISING is impacting on nutrition outcomes as well as increasing opportunities for income generation

1. LUANAR

* LUANAR gave a report on the progress of the research for the MSc students at

Bunda campus.

* The meeting was informed that the Crop Science student finished his research and is expected to be through by September 2015.
* It was also reported that the Animal Science student will soon begin his research (funding is available) though still doing coursework.
* It was however reported that the nutrition student experienced some setbacks with her research due to late release of funds. LUANAR is not able to pre-fund activities. The student should be making progress now as funds are available.

1. MSU

* Data for 32 mother trials being processed and ready in 2 weeks time – this will be presented at the July meeting
* Two surveys have been held this year 1) Fertilizer –maize response, and 2) yield cuts in farmers’ fields based on good and poor fields.
* For the maize response survey, both low fertility and high fertility plots of the farmers were considered where data on the presence of weeds in general, witchweed in particular; amount of fertilizer used on each plot was collected. We will correlate all these parameters to yield estimates. Soils from these field were collected last September
* It was also reported that data entry was completed except for the dry weights for the yield cuts survey.

1. **2015/2016 proposal**

* The 2014/15 proposal was proposal was developed to cover two years (for continuity’s sake)- 2015/16
* We howeer need to use this year’s experiences to improve on our document
* The chair however informed the meeting that the current proposal should be used to modify/revise the next phase’s proposal i.e. identifying areas that need improvement and/or revision.
* Researchers should provide new insights as the program develops a proposal for a possible Africa RISING Phase II

1. **AOB**

* Regis informed the meeting that IFPRI will be vising AR research sites to present findings from the baseline survey and engage farmers in both intervention and counterfactual sites

**PARTICIPANTS**

1. Regis Chikowo MSU/ AR
2. Sieg Snapp MSU/AR
3. Lawrie Drinkwater Cornell University
4. Aston Mulwafu ICRAF
5. Hannah Livuza Munthali AR Research Assistant
6. Emmanuel Jambo AR Research Assistant
7. Joyce Njoloma ICRAF
8. Gift Ndengu CIAT
9. Bartholomew Chataika CIAT
10. Wezi Mhango LUANAR